

HOMEMISSIONS

WELS MISSIONS OVERVIEW 2016

To learn more about WELS Missions, subscribe to *Forward in Christ* magazine at wels.net/fic.



The Board for Home Missions authorized the opening of eight new home missions throughout North America at its Spring 2016 meeting. In addition, four existing ministries received funding to help enhance their ministries.

2016-17 HOME MISSIONS PROJECTS

Lehi, Utah: Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, is daughtering this mission south of Salt Lake City. The mission pastor, when on site, will take up to a year to acclimate to the community, which has a strong Mormon presence, as well as prepare outreach plans for the start of this mission.

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho: Located 35 miles east of Spokane, Wash., this mission is going to receive support from the members of St. Matthew in Spokane. Upwards of 25 adult members will make up the launch team that will work with the mission pastor for up to two years in the establishment of this mission.

Fredericksburg, Virginia: This mission is being sponsored by Trinity Lutheran in Woodbridge, Va., about 40 miles away. With a growing community in Fredericksburg, members from Trinity are eager to be on the ground floor in starting this mission.

Rockwall, Texas: Connected with Divine Peace in Garland, Tex., this is going to be a multi-site mission. There will be two locations for worship, but one leadership team and budget. More than 20 members from Divine Peace are living in the target area.

Atlanta, Georgia: The city of Atlanta is ringed by seven WELS churches. Now, with more members living in the city and with travel difficult from the city to the churches, a mission is being started in Atlanta. Over the past two years, WELS members have been holding Bible studies in the city, and a core group has been established. As an urban mission, there will be ample people to reach out to.

Victoria, Texas: The members of Redeemer Lutheran in Edna have been looking to reach out to Victoria. This community is the hub for the entire region, especially for retail, colleges, and hospitals. A second pastor will be needed as the pastor at Redeemer offers both English and Spanish worship each Sunday.

Meridian, Idaho: Cross of Christ in Boise, Idaho, will be the sponsoring church for this multi-site mission. With a number of families living in Meridian, starting a second site is one of the ways to reach more with the gospel.

Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Divine Word Lutheran in Plover, Wis., has an active campus ministry at UW-Stevens Point. In the spring of 2015, the Campus Ministry committee approved financial support so

WELS MISSIONS

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188
414-256-3243 • wels.net/missions



HOMEMISSIONS

WELS MISSIONS OVERVIEW 2016

If you would like to support Missions,
please visit wels.net/give.

that Divine Word could call a second pastor to focus more time on campus ministry as well as reach out in Stevens Point. Recently, Divine Word purchased a building for a campus center and second worship site.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

The WELS Campus Ministry Committee (CMC) is an eight-member committee of laymen and pastors who serve under the Board for Home Missions. The CMC exists to assist congregations in ministering to college students and other young adults with the means of grace so that they may grow in the faith and be trained for service in Christ's kingdom. These congregations reach out to about 6,500 students. Please consider finding someone in your congregation to gather each college-age student's educational plans and share it with the CMC.

To sign up and learn more about submitting information, visit wels.net/campus-ministry.

CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

Approximately 29 percent of the Board for Home Missions (BHM) budget for fiscal year 2016-17 is allocated to cross-cultural ministries. The BHM helps support African, Chinese, Hispanic, Hmong, Korean, Muslim, Navajo, Sudanese, and Vietnamese ministries. Seventeen weekly Hispanic worship services are held, averaging 1,500 in worship. Nine Hmong pastors serve about 700 souls.

MULTI-SITE CONGREGATIONS

The multi-site approach to congregational ministry is growing as a way to reach more people and bring mission work to more congregations by starting new churches in new locations. Under the multi-site model, a congregation has two or more physical locations, but is organizationally one congregation with one financial budget.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (CEF)

This non-profit lending agency assists missions in buying land and building/buying worship facilities. In addition to granting low-interest loans, CEF also has provided more than \$26 million in grants to qualifying mission churches since 1993. For fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17, at least \$700,000 per year is being granted to start new missions. To learn more or to invest in CEF, go to cef.wels.net.

MISSION SUPPORT

Home Missions is thankful for its budget from Congregation Mission Offerings of \$5.70 million for fiscal year 2016-17 as well as special gifts to Home Missions. In addition, the Joint Mission Council, through its endowment fund payout, is contributing \$200,000 the coming fiscal year to help support new missions.

SPECIAL GIFTS

Special gifts to WELS Missions have allowed WELS as a church body to reach more souls by way of opening new missions and supporting new ministries. To offer a special gift or for more information, visit wels.net/missions.

We thank the Lord for those who support the ministry of our church body. Through these gifts we can reach many souls with the precious gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Board for Home Missions (BHM) is made up of 29 members: 14 pastors, 14 laymen from the district mission boards, and Chairman Rev. Chuck Westra. Rev. Keith Free, Home Missions administrator; Rev. Larry Schlomer, World Missions administrator; Mr. Sean Young, director of Mission Operations; and seven full-time staff members serve Home and World Missions at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry.